

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for proposing an amendment that would place the claims in a condition for allowance. In view of the above amendments, the application is now in condition for allowance.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C § 103

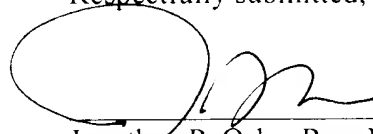
Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,876,602 ("Jons") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,547,575 ("Demmer"). Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to place it in condition for allowance. Therefore, claim 1 is now patentable over Jons and Demmer, whether considered separately or in combination. Further, claims 2-5, depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, are likewise patentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04558/044001).

Date: 8/5/03

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan P. Osha, Reg. No. 33,986
Rosenthal & Osha L.L.P.
One Houston Center, Suite 2800
1221 McKinney Street
Houston, TX 77010
Telephone: (713) 228-8600
Facsimile: (713) 228-8778

52351_2